

PATENT: CISCO-2390

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed 2/09/06, claims 5, 13, and 18 were objected to because of various informalities. Applicant has amended claims 5, 13 and 18 to correct these informalities. Please note that claim 5, while appearing to read "claim 14" actually is "claim1," but the strikethrough character overlaps with a portion of the "4" character and is not visible.

Claim 1 was rejected as lacking the proper antecedent basis for "said IDSEL line" in line 11. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and directs Examiner's attention to Claim 1 at line 8, which reads "...a IDSEL line..." thus establishing the antecedent basis for lines 10 and 11.

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 13-18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's prior art in view of Bontemps et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,923,663). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, and 18 (all pending independent claims) to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, 12, and 19, respectively.

Regarding Examiner's rejection of claim 4, 12, and 19, Applicant submits that Bontemps does not disclose the limitations of claims 4, 12, and 19. Specifically, Examiner rejected claims 4, 12, and 19, by citing FIG. 1, elements 100 and 101 as teaching this same limitation. However, claims 4, 12, and 19 are directed to a router having a front card comprising an FE MAC, and a back card comprises an FE Phy. In stark comparison,

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element 100 in FIG. 1 refers to a computer network, and there is no element 101 in Bontemps. Thus, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

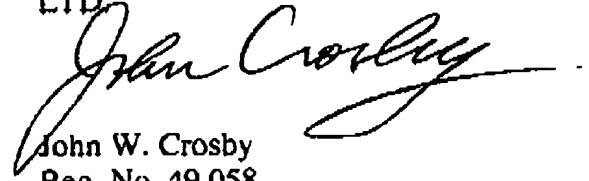
In order to combine Bontemps with AAPA, the Examiner must show that Bontemps in combination with AAPA would arrive at Applicant's invention. Absent this, there is no motivation to combine Bontemps with AAPA because such combination doesn't solve the problem described in Applicant's AAPA.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 10 and 18 as amended (and thus their respective dependent claims) cannot be sustained. If the Examiner feels there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by telephone, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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